

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of two important resolutions: H. Res. 438, urging member states of the United Nations to stop supporting resolutions that unfairly castigate Israel and H. Res. 535, honoring the life, legacy and example of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. At a time when the death of Yasser Arafat and Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip have created the renewed possibility for a safer, more secure, and more peaceful future for Israel, these two resolutions highlight both the challenges and the hope of the current moment.

- While Israel has been the victim of unfair United Nations resolutions for much longer than I have been in Congress, the people of Israel should know that the United States will always stand side by side with them in the struggle against hatred and anti-Semitism. We join with them in the fight against terrorism, such as the recent suicide bombing in Netanya which killed 5 Israelis and wounded over 50 others.

- At the same time, the memory of Yitzhak Rabin reminds us all of the courage that the Israeli people and their leaders--from David Ben-Gurion to Ariel Sharon--have shown when peace appears possible. I commend the House for making these two important statements and join my colleagues in the hope that Israel will one day live out Prime Minister Rabin's dream, "No more blood--no more tears."